



Volunteer Newsletter

Vol VI – Oct 2023

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Hello my treasured volunteers! When I started writing this newsletter the leaves were changing colour and now there is snow on the ground. But... we joyously head into our busiest season of the year with so much gratitude for our incredible volunteer family!

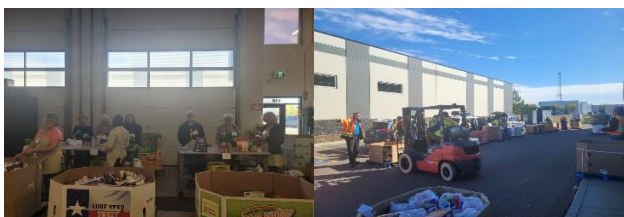
VOLUNTEER POTLUCK - SEPT 18

It was such a great turnout to our fall Potluck. As usual, there was such a great spread of yummy food, and LOTS of it. Thank you to John & Donova Dundas, and Ken Colosimo for smoking the pork for our main dish. I hope everyone enjoyed getting to know some other volunteers and hopefully feeling appreciated for your involvement at the Food Bank.



ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE – SEPT 23

We received over 34,000 lbs of donations at our Annual Food Drive. We had over 50 volunteers that day and we're still sorting and stocking our shelves each day.



THANKSGIVING HAMPERS

This year we gave out 104 Thanksgiving hampers. It was a busy but fun week. We hope you all enjoyed time with family and friends during the holiday.

MANY HANDS SOUP PROGRAM

On the 2nd Wednesday of each month, our volunteers cook soup for our hamper program at the United Church. Our next session is Wed, Nov 8. During the winter, a lot of our volunteers travel south so we need some additional volunteers. Volunteer jobs include cutting veggies, cooking & portioning the soup and clean up. Please let us know if you're interested in helping with this program.



SAVE THE DATE

Our Christmas Party will be **Mon, Dec 4th** at the George Traditional House from 4 – 6pm. We will be providing a light meal and your first beverage free of charge. There will also be door prizes. Please RSVP (yes or no) to Char.



HOLIDAY TRAIN

The CP Holiday Train will be stopping in Okotoks on Dec 11, from 12:00 – 12:45pm across from the Okotoks Library. The train brings holiday cheer, live music, and collects donations for local food banks at all of their stops across the country. No volunteers are needed to work at this event but we'd love to see you come and enjoy the show in support of the Okotoks Food Bank.



SIGNING UP FOR SHIFTS ON BETTER IMPACT

Thank you to those who are scheduling their shifts on <https://www.MyImpactPage.com>

It's so helpful to be able to plan ahead for extra coverage and so that I don't need to enter 200 people's schedules. That being said, please do let me know if you need help. I've also arranged with some of you that are on a regular weekly rotation to have me add you to the weekly schedule.

The shifts for the New Year are now available. We re-open on Jan 2, 2024!

Thank
you ❤️

FOOD BANKS CANADA HUNGER COUNT

The annual Hunger Count was released last week. There were 1,935,911 visits made to Foodbanks in the past year. Usage has increased by 32.1% compared to last year. Alberta is third in usage, behind Ontario and Quebec. One third of foodbank clients are children. There are some great highlights of the report on the Food Banks Canada website: <https://foodbankscanada.ca/hungercount/>
Here is the link to the complete report: <https://fcblobstorage.blob.core.windows.net/wordpress/2023/10/hungercount23-en.pdf>

In light of these very sad statistics, we need to remember to do all we can to protect our clients' dignity and confidentiality. If you see someone you know, maybe let them approach you first? Also, it can be challenging to not make judgements based on the car someone is driving or the clothing they are wearing. We should always remember we don't know the whole story! You all have such kind hearts so thank you for demonstrating your compassion by volunteering here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 13 – Closed in lieu of Remembrance Day

Dec 4 - Volunteer Christmas Party at the George

Dec 12 & 13 – Fundraiser Christmas concert – tickets will be available through Eventbrite mid-November

Dec 16 – Christmas Hamper Distribution Day

Dec 18 – Clean-up day for STAFF only

Dec 19 – Jan 1 Closed for Christmas Holidays

Jan 2, 2024 - RE-OPEN!!!



* Christmas 2022

VOLUNTEER HOURS Jul - Sept 2023 (Q3)

Core Volunteers	2133
Cobs Bread	53
Food Bank Shopper	36
Store Pickups	225
Garden	135
Soup Sessions	23.5
Community Events	191
Hamper Delivery	6.5
Corporate Groups	45
Board Activities	60
Students	14
TOTAL	2922

We ❤️
Volunteers